

Pesticide Safety

Worker Health and Safety Branch

Information

Series A

A-9

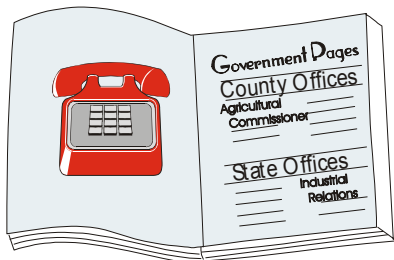
HAZARD COMMUNICATION FOR EMPLOYEES WORKING IN AGRICULTURAL FIELDS*

* **Employers: Fill in the blank lines on page 1 and display this handout where employees work in treated fields.**

General:

This leaflet tells you about your right to know about possible dangers at work. This leaflet also helps your boss follow these rules. Your boss must know and tell you (in a language you understand) about specific pesticides that have been sprayed, and how you should protect yourself from them.

Pesticides are only one kind of danger at your work. Complaints about pesticide safety problems should be filed with the county agricultural commissioner. Complaints about other health and safety problems



(bathrooms, drinking water, etc.) should be filed with the California Department of Industrial Relations-Cal/OSHA office. The telephone numbers can be found in the government pages of the telephone book.

Your Rights:

By law you must be told about possible dangers where you work. You must also be trained to recognize and avoid those dangers. As an employee you have the following rights:

- You have the right to know what pesticides have been used where you work. You can look at this information without having to ask for it. As part of your training, you must be told where to find the information.
- You have the right to look at Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) and pesticide use records. The MSDS tells you about the pesticide, its dangers and the protections needed.

- You have the right to file complaints about the dangers at work without being punished or fired. Your boss will not be told who filed the complaint.
- Your boss must plan ahead for medical care and make sure that you are taken to the doctor immediately if it is likely that pesticides make you sick or hurt at work. Medical care is available at:

- If you get sick or hurt at work, you can file for worker's compensation. Workers' compensation will pay for your medical costs, and in some cases, lost pay.

Your boss must explain your rights to you. If you need more help in understanding your rights, go to your local county agricultural commissioner's office, local legal aid, worker's rights office, union or DPR at: Anaheim (714) 279-7690; Fresno (559) 445-5401; or Sacramento (916) 372-6892.

Pesticide Application Records:

The farmer must keep records on all pesticide applications. You have a right to look at these records without asking for permission. In your training, you must be told where you can find them. If you are not sure of the location, ask your boss. You can find the pesticide records and the MSDS at:

The following information must be available for all pesticide applications: field identification; application date and time; the restricted entry interval (REI); pesticide name; active ingredient name; and the US EPA registration number. In addition, the MSDS for

the pesticides sprayed must be displayed for you to see, even if you work for a farm labor contractor.

Training:

Before you work in sprayed fields, you must receive training; it must also be given at least every five years. The training must include:

- your rights as an employee, including protection from retaliation;
- why it is important to shower or wash after work;
- an explanation of REIs and posting;
- where you might contact pesticides;
- how you can be exposed;
- dangers of pesticides;
- pesticide illness and injury symptoms;
- first aid and where you can get medical care;
- why you should not take pesticides home; and
- the “Hazard Communication” program.

If you are told to mix or apply pesticides, you must have more training on how to do that job safely.

Pesticide Illness and Injury:

People get sick for many different reasons at home and at work. Pesticides can make you sick. The symptoms for pesticide poisoning can be the same as having the flu or other common illnesses. If you get a headache, dizziness, upset stomach, blurred vision, other flu-like symptoms, a rash, or eye pain while working in the field, you should ask your boss to take you to the doctor. These symptoms might be caused by pesticide exposure. Your boss must have plans for medical care and see that you are taken to the doctor if you get sick or hurt on the job.

Workers can get skin rashes from pesticides or from plants and insects in the field. It is important to take a bath or shower after working in fields to remove pesticides or plant juices that might cause a skin rash or illness.

Hazard Identification:

Before a pesticide can be used in California, tests are done to find out about its harmful effects. The pesticide label tells you how to protect yourself from those effects. That is why the label tells you to wear

certain protections (such as gloves or pants and a long-sleeved shirt), and why there is time after a pesticide application when you cannot go back into a field, called a restricted entry interval.

Restricted Entry Intervals:

A restricted entry interval (REI) is the time after a pesticide application when you are not allowed to work in the field. If you touch a sprayed plant during an REI, you might become sick. After a pesticide is sprayed on a plant it begins to go away; this process takes longer for some pesticides than for others. At a minimum, you must not go into a field for any reason for at least 4 hours after any pesticide application.

If you will touch the plants or other sprayed things, do not work in a field during a REI; it is dangerous and illegal. This includes work such as hand harvesting, thinning, hand weeding, topping, planting, sucker removal, pruning, disbudding, roguing, packing produce and other work where you must touch the plants.

In some case, such as irrigating and driving a tractor, you can work in a field during an REI, as long as you do not touch sprayed plants or equipment. If you irrigate, drive a tractor, or do other work during the REI, you must be told the following:

- the pesticide sprayed and the length of the REI,
- the protections you need to take, and
- to take a shower or bath after work.

If you go into a sprayed field before the REI is over, you must wear the same safety gear that the applicator wears; it is listed on the pesticide label. Your boss must provide you with any safety gear needed. If you handle unsprayed irrigation equipment and do not touch the plants or other sprayed surfaces, you can work in a field before the REI is over for 8 hours per day. If you handle irrigation equipment that was sprayed and the REI is still in effect, you can only work in that field for 1 hour per day. Working in a sprayed field is not allowed for the most dangerous pesticides.

Warnings:

If you are likely to go into or near a sprayed field or greenhouse, the farmer or your boss must tell you:

- about the pesticide sprayed,
- how long to stay out of the field, and
- what you must do to protect yourself.

If you work for a farm labor contractor, the labor contractor must tell you about these things. Follow the directions about staying out of sprayed fields and greenhouses.

In 1986, a law called the *Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986* (Proposition 65) was passed. Proposition 65 requires California to make a list of chemicals that cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm. The Proposition 65 list

contains many different chemicals, including dyes, solvents, pesticides, drugs, and food additives. If a pesticide is on the Proposition 65 list, your boss must warn you if you could be exposed to enough pesticide to result in a significant health risk. Your boss may also choose to warn you if a pesticide on the Proposition 65 list has been sprayed, even if health problems are not likely. Your boss is required to keep information on each pesticide application and allow you to look at it. If you are not sure of the record location, ask your boss. The following table lists pesticides that are on the Proposition 65 list and might be used in California.

CURRENTLY REGISTERED PESTICIDES ON THE PROPOSITION 65 LIST

PESTICIDES KNOWN TO THE STATE TO CAUSE CANCER

Alachlor	<i>p</i> -Dichlorobenzene	Lindane	<i>o</i> -Phenylphenol
Arsenic acid	1,3-Dichloropropene	Mancozeb	Propargite
Arsenic pentoxide	Diethyl phthalate	Maneb	Pronamide (propyzamide)
Arsenic trioxide	Dipropyl	Metam sodium	Propylene oxide
Cacodylic acid	isocinchomeronate	Metiram	Silica aerogel
Captan	Diuron	Oxadiazon	Sodium dichromate
Chlorothalonil	Ethoprop	Oxythioquinox	Thiodicarb
Chromic acid	Ethylene oxide	Pentachlorophenol	Vinclozolin
Creosote	Fenoxycarb	<i>o</i> -Phenylphenate, sodium	
Daminozide	Folpet	(<i>o</i> -phenylphenol, sodium)	
DDVP (dichlorvos)	Formaldehyde (gas)		
	Iprodione		

PESTICIDES KNOWN TO THE STATE TO CAUSE BIRTH DEFECTS OR REPRODUCTIVE HARM

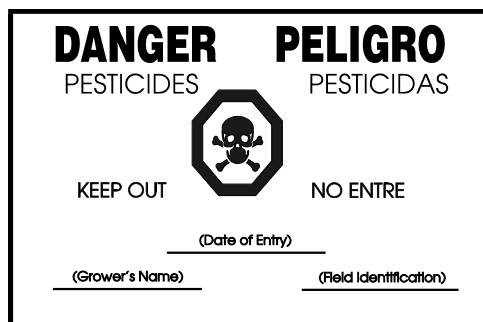
Amitraz	Disodium cyanodithioimido	Methyl bromide (as a	Resmethrin
Arsenic, pentoxide	carbonate	structural fumigant)	Sodium
Arsenic, trioxide	EPTC (ethyl	Myclobutanil	dimethyldithiocarbamate
Benomyl	dipropylthiocarbamate)	Nabam	Sodium fluoroacetate
Bromacil, lithium salt	Ethylene oxide	Nicotine	(1080)
Bromoxynil octanoate	Fenoxaprop ethyl	Nitrapyrin	Streptomycin sulfate
Chlorsulfuron	Fluazifop butyl	Oxadiazon	Thiophanate methyl
Cyanazine	Fluvalinate	Oxydemeton-methyl	Triadimefon
Cycloate	Hydramethylnon	Oxythioquinox	Tributyltin methacrylate
2,4-D butyric acid (2,4-DB)	Linuron	Potassium	Triforine
Diclofop methyl	Metam sodium	dimethyldithiocarbamate	Vinclozolin
	Metiram	Propargite	Warfarin

Posting:

Just before spraying a field, the farmer must put up signs like the following when:

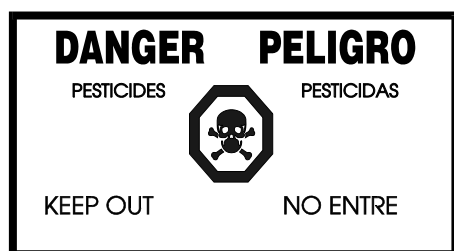
- the pesticide label says he must
- any pesticide is applied in a greenhouse
- the REI is over a week long.

Pesticide rules do not require posting for all REIs. The signs must be put up at places where you usually go into the field and every 600 feet along roads when the sprayed field is not fenced. The signs must be put up before the pesticide is sprayed and taken down after the REI ends.



This leaflet helps you to learn about pesticide rules; it is not a legal document. The words "must" and "should" used in the text are **not** the same. The term "must" means the action is always required. The term "should" indicates extra safety practices that are recommended to help lower pesticide exposure even though it may not be required.

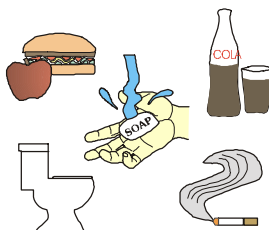
For some pesticides, the sign may look more like this:



SAFETY TIPS



- Protect your skin
- Wear clothes with long sleeves and long pants, shoes or boots, socks, a hat and/or scarf and gloves
- Make sure they are clean and without holes



- Always wash your hands before eating, drinking, smoking, chewing gum or going to the bathroom
- Do not cook food with wood found in the field



- Take a bath or shower as soon as you get home from work
- Wash with soap & water and use shampoo on your hair
- Put on clean clothes



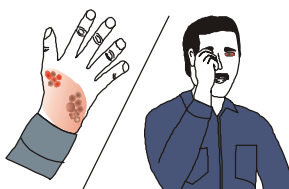
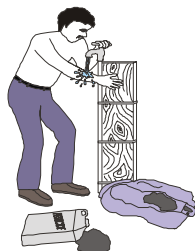
- Pesticides get on work clothes and then on your skin
- Wash work clothes before wearing them again
- Wash work clothes separate from other clothes
- Never put pesticides in food containers
- Do not take farm pesticides or their containers home
- Keep children away from pesticides

ILLNESS/INJURY



- Pesticides get on your skin and clothes when you touch sprayed plants, soil, irrigation water or are exposed to spray drift
- They can move from your clothes and onto your skin
- Some pesticides easily go through your skin and can make you sick.
- Tell the boss if you are sick or hurt at work
- If the illness/injury is work-related, your employer will pay for all medical care of that illness
- If the condition is work-related you may be paid for your time off work while sick or hurt

FIRST AID



- Wash immediately with the closest clean water if pesticides are spilled or sprayed on your clothes or skin
- Change into clean clothes
- Tell your boss about the spill after washing
- Wash if your eyes or skin begin to itch or burn
- Use lots of water
- Tell your boss you should go to a doctor
- If you feel sick at work (headache, stomach ache, vomiting, dizzy) tell your boss
- He or she can make sure you are taken to a doctor

- Have someone else drive you to the doctor if you are sick or injured